



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Lexington Wonder Lab in Monroe to hold ribbon cutting March 18

BATON ROUGE –The Lexington Elementary School played host to a ribbon cutting today to celebrate the opening of its new Wonder Lab, a unique outdoor learning center. The Wonder Lab is located on the campus of Lexington Elementary School in Monroe.

The Wonder Lab is an outdoor space that was previously an underutilized grassy area has been turned into a rain garden that will provide hands-on learning activities such as wetland preservation, animal and water conservation, life science experiments, gardening, art and reading. The 60-foot by 200-foot area also doubles as a pollution control device by reducing water runoff that ultimately deposits into Bayou DeSiard.

“The best mechanism for future environmental protection is education,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “With projects such as this, children will have a better understanding of nature, the environment and the roles people play in the environment. It is encouraging to see funding used in a manner where the state will see benefits for many years to come. I commend all that made this possible.”

With the hands-on approach, students have the opportunity to explore, observe, create and connect with nature and their world. It also provides students with the tools they need to be able to protect and enhance their environment.

The Lexington Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, with support from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality through a grant made possible from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Monroe City School Board and private donations was able to reclaim an unused portion of the Lexington campus to create the Wonder Lab, which is an outdoor extension of the classroom.

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